

March 24

Matthew 18:3 (NIV) And [Jesus] said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Carol and I began watching a show called Little Big Shots. The show features small children who can do amazing things, from juggling to singing to naming all the countries in the world. On the last show, we saw Natalie Green, a 5-year-old girl. Her mother posted a 44 second video of her that went viral and earned her a spot on the television show. What did Natalie do that garnered her such attention? She prayed. At one point when the host of the show, Steve Harvey, was speaking with her, she said, “I am going to pray for you to stop cussing.” At the end, Harvey asked her to pray for him. She had him get on his knees, told everyone to close their eyes and bow their heads. This was TV so Harvey knelt but did not close his eyes, and many in the audience were not quiet. However, none of that bothered Natalie. She prayed a powerful, heartfelt prayer.

Two things caught my attention. One I have mentioned before. We must not underestimate our children. Second, I was amazed at Natalie’s focus. She was not intimidated by her surroundings or by being on television. I wondered how many of us, in a similar situation, would have the calm and confidence to pray like that. She did not try to pray for the television or the audience. She was not distracted by the talking or by Harvey’s looking around. This little girl had her eyes closed and hands on Harvey, and she was focused on one thing: praying to Jesus. So often we can become distracted by our surroundings or even intimidated by certain situations. Early in my walk with Jesus, I would not even pray in a Bible study. My focus was on myself and those around me. Natalie’s focus was on Jesus. Her prayer was not a show; it was a prayer that God heard. May we all have her boldness and confidence. May we not allow our surroundings to quiet our voices.